

said, she wanted to be able to say on her gravestone: Mission Accomplished!

While she didn't accomplish everything on her ambitious dream list, she accomplished a lot in her decades of advocacy for these war heroes. In 2014, she and five other Rosies were invited to the White House and met with President Obama and then-Vice President Biden, even snatching a hug from him. Congressman HUFFMAN carried, and I cosponsored, a bill that designated March 21 as Rosie the Riveter Day during Women's History Month. It has to be renewed each year, but we do have a national holiday, thanks in large part to Phyllis' work. I carried, and Congressman HUFFMAN cosponsored, the Rosie the Riveter Congressional Gold Medal Act which was signed into law in December 2020. The U.S. mint is now in the process of designing the medal and Phyllis was deeply involved in sharing her design ideas with the mint.

In 2019, Phyllis and two fellow Rosies traveled to France for the 75th Anniversary of D-Day. In a letter to Senator SCHUMER, she wrote that the people of France honored their work with parades, a banquet, gifts and a medal. In 2000, The Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historical Park opened its doors in Richmond, due to the advocacy of Phyllis and her fellow Rosies.

Madam Speaker, Phyllis Gould never stopped fighting for the Rosies and she refused to take no for an answer. She was fiercely independent. She lived alone in her apartment and drove a stick shift truck up until a few days before she fell ill at 99. She proudly displayed photos of herself with the President and Vice President and Members of Congress. She didn't have a computer or cell phone, but she made countless phone calls from her landline and wrote countless handwritten letters to federal and state elected officials to plead for proper recognition of these war heroes. In our book, she has permission to write Mission Accomplished on her gravestone.

#### HONORING DAISY DE LA TORRE AS A 28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

##### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 26, 2021*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Daisy De La Torre of the Elysian Valley neighborhood of Los Angeles, California.

A life-long resident of Elysian Valley, Daisy attended Immaculate Heart High School and in 1917, obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from the University of San Francisco. In 1918, she began her vocation as a nurse at Dignity Health Glendale Memorial Hospital.

As a labor and delivery nurse, Daisy has been an essential frontline worker with coronavirus patients throughout the entire pandemic. New life is normally celebrated daily in her unit, however due to the coronavirus, un-

certainty and anxiety developed in this unit, as expectant mothers were occasionally compelled to experience their babies' births alone. In some instances, due to the mothers' COVID-19 positive status, mothers were separated from their babies after they were born. Ms. De La Torre stepped up to the challenge, working overtime as needed and consistently providing kindness, comfort, and compassion to those under her care, often substituting for absent family members, while concurrently welcoming new lives as so many lives were lost nationwide.

When Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) became scarce at the hospital, Daisy contacted local Elysian Valley businesses, nonprofits, and friends, such as Waxpaper, LA Mas and Suay Sew Shop who quickly responded with donations of locally made masks for hospital staff, as well as for family members and neighbors. Daisy's leadership extended beyond obtaining PPE and she worked with LA Mas, a nonprofit organization to provide food to families in need in the Elysian Valley area during the pandemic.

Daisy was one of the first group of frontline workers to receive a first dose of COVID-19 vaccine in December of 2020, and has been a strong advocate for vaccine awareness, assisting in this effort through social media platforms and scheduling vaccine appointments. She is grateful for the opportunity to help people through nursing and for the many blessings in her life.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Daisy De La Torre.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND MILITARY SERVICE OF EUGENE S. KOLUPSKI

##### HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 26, 2021*

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of World War II veteran, Eugene S. Kolupski, who was laid to rest with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery today, July 26, 2021. Eugene was born on August 23, 1924, and passed away peacefully at his home in Encino, California, at the age of 94 on July 5, 2019.

During the Second World War, Eugene was a part of the 885th Heavy Bombardment Squadron of the United States Army Air Forces. He served in eight campaigns, including Northern France, Southern France, North Apennines, Po Valley, Balkans, Rome-Arno, Naples-Foggia, and the Rhineland. For his valiant military service, Eugene was awarded one Silver Star, three Bronze Stars, and a Presidential Distinguished Unit Emblem with an Oak Leaf Cluster, among other medals. Before he passed, he was also presented the French Legion of Honor Medal by the French Government, France's highest honor.

The 885th Heavy Bombardment Squadron, despite its name, never dropped a single bomb during the war. While under the command of the 15th Air Force, its missions were often top secret. They were often tasked with dropping Office of Strategic Service agents behind enemy territory and dispersing weap-

ons and supplies to the French and Italian resistance. In preparation for the D-Day landings, the squadron placed agents behind enemy lines to obtain information on German installations and scout glider landing areas. They flew modified B-17 Flying Fortresses and B-24 Liberators that were painted black to better blend in during night missions. Since all of their operations were flown at unusually low altitudes, the 885th suffered some of the heaviest losses during the war.

Eugene is survived by his wife Delores (Taroni), his children, Thomas and his wife, Tamara, of Seabrook, Texas; Corinne Ginett and her husband, James, of Sodus Point, New York; Joseph of Encino, California; Ann Marie Porretta of Webster, New York, his seven grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

Madam Speaker, I honor Eugene S. Kolupski as one of the last members of the Greatest Generation. His faithful service to our country will not be forgotten, and my heartfelt prayers remain with his family and friends.

#### RECOGNITION OF AMBASSADOR ELIN SULEYMANOV

##### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 26, 2021*

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the diplomatic tour of Ambassador Elin Suleymanov of Azerbaijan. Since regaining independence in 1991, Azerbaijan has faced ethnic and geopolitical opposition, imperiling its independence and democracy. Ambassador Suleymanov—one of the longest-serving ambassadors in Washington—has served as a force of peace and diplomacy in the region, working honorably to advance prosperity and enhance the U.S. relationship with Azerbaijan. We congratulate him as the U.S. and Azerbaijan will mark 30 years of diplomatic relations next year.

Before his diplomatic tour, he was the first Azerbaijani to graduate from the University of Toledo in 1994 as a part of the U.S.-funded Muskie Fellowship. In 2004, Ambassador Suleymanov became the first Azerbaijani to receive the Master of Law and Diplomacy degree from the Fletcher School at Tufts University. Following his academic pursuits, he served as Azerbaijan's first Consul General in Los Angeles, establishing the nation's diplomatic presence on the West Coast.

Ambassador Suleymanov's personal concern for Azerbaijan inspired his concerted advocacy for the refugee crisis. Before joining diplomatic service, he worked with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, providing care and protection to the thousands of people displaced by the three-decades-long Armenia Azerbaijan conflict.

Additionally, Ambassador Suleymanov has a special partnership with the State of Texas. The Ambassador is especially fond of the City of Laredo and has helped establish educational partnerships between TAMU and universities in Azerbaijan. He has visited Laredo for the Washington Birthday Celebration more frequently than any other ambassador accredited in Washington, and he has a special appreciation for Laredo's own Palenque Grill.

I am pleased to congratulate Ambassador Suleymanov on decades of building a strong

relationship between Azerbaijan and the United States. I commend Ambassador Suleymanov's significant contribution to our legislative branch, working closely with Members of Congress to expand the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus and deepen the friendship between our nations.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF TIM P. KEGEL

HON. GUY RESCENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 26, 2021*

Mr. RESCENTHALER. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Tim P. Kegel who passed away on May 22, 2021, at the age of 63.

Tim became a licensed funeral director in 1990, working with his predecessor for 10 years before taking over the business. He established Kegel Funeral Home Inc. in 1999 and ran it for over 20 years, helping the Finleyville community and the surrounding region bury loved ones with dignity. He will always be remembered for the kindness he showed grieving families throughout the burial process.

Tim was a lifelong member of the Finleyville Volunteer Fire Department. During his 45 years with them, he served as president and fire chief. Tim could often be found behind the wheel of his pride and joy, the department's vintage fire engine. He was instrumental in sourcing this engine and brought it to Finleyville in 2000.

His work as a public servant did not stop there. Tim served as deputy coroner in Washington County, which required him to be on call 365 days a year. Oftentimes he would have to respond to disturbing scenes in the dead of night or fight through inclement weather. Despite missing holidays and losing out on weekends, Tim continued in this position for nearly 30 years.

Within his community, he held the position of president for the Finleyville Borough Council. Tim served as treasurer for both the Sons of American Legion Post 613 and the Finleyville Cemetery Company. He was a devoted member of the First Presbyterian Church of Finleyville. Tim's neighbors will always remember his incredible warmth and impassioned storytelling.

Madam Speaker, Tim P. Kegel led a life of service to his community. From his 45-year career as a volunteer firefighter to his incredibly important work identifying and burying the deceased, his dedication to his neighbors was clear. I have no doubt Tim's legacy will live on in Finleyville and across southwestern Pennsylvania.

URGENT NEED TO PASS LEGISLATION TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE VOTING RIGHTS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 26, 2021*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak on the fierce urgency of preserving

the precious right to vote by passing H.R. 4, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, H.R. 1, the For The People Act. I will continue the dialogue at a future time, when I discuss the importance of passing H.R. 40, legislation which I introduced that establishes a commission to study and develop reparation proposals for African Americans.

Madam Speaker, the serious damage to the precious right to vote occasioned by the right-wing, conservative majority on the Supreme Court demands that Congress exercise its powers under Section 5 of the 15th Amendment to restore the extraordinary reach and effectiveness of Section 2 and Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. As an aside, Madam Speaker, on the objection of VRA opponents to states subject preclearance having the burden to bail themselves out, I have long said that the states that were subject to preclearance under the Voting Rights Act earned their way in, so it only fitting that they earn their way out.

Madam Speaker, June 25, 2021, marked the 8th anniversary of the Supreme Court's infamous decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*, 570 U.S. 529 (2013), which immobilized the Department of Justice from subjecting discriminatory voting and election law changes to prior review and approval, or "preclearance." It was predicted at the time by me and other defenders of the precious right to vote that the Court's misguided and naive decision would usher in a wave of state and local initiatives intended to suppress and nullify the rights of black Americans, persons of color, young adults, and marginalized communities to exercise the most basic act in the political process: voting. As we have seen in recent months, this prediction has tragically come to pass.

Not to be content with the monument to disgrace that is the *Shelby* decision, the activist right-wing conservative majority on the Roberts Court, on July 1, 2021, issued its evil twin, the decision in *Brnovich v. DNC*, 594 U.S. \_\_\_, No. 19-1257 and 19-1258 (July 1, 2021), which engrafts on Section 2 of the Voting Rights onerous burdens that Congress never intended and explicitly legislated against to ensure that: "No voting qualification or prerequisite to voting or standard, practice, or procedure shall be imposed or applied by any State or political subdivision in a manner which results in a denial or abridgement of the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color, or language minority status."

Among these burdens, couched as "guideposts," or "suggestions" are that when reviewing claims that a facially neutral election law, policy, practice, or voting rule has a discriminator, and therefore unlawful, effect on minority citizens, courts are to consider the following matters:

1. An "ordinary burdens" or "mere inconvenience" exception;
2. Size of disparities in burdens imposed by the challenged rule;
3. Other opportunities to vote provided by a state's election system;
4. Legitimate state interests justifying the challenged voting rule;
5. The degree to which a voting rule departs from what was standard practice when 2 was amended in 1982.

Taken together, this Supreme Court cabal is saying to racial, ethnic, and language minorities: "What's the big deal, it's only voting. Just like with bad weather, sometimes you just have grin and bear a little inconvenience."

This Supreme Court majority has simply never understood, or refuses to accept, the fundamental importance of the right to vote, free of discriminatory hurdles and obstacles.

Madam Speaker, were it not for the 24th Amendment, I venture to say that this conservative majority on the Court would subject poll taxes and literacy tests to the review standard enunciated in *Brnovich v. DNC*. Their predecessors on the Court understood this, going back at least as far as 1938, when the Supreme Court held in Chief Justice Hughes' famous Footnote 4 in *United States v. Carolite Products*, 304 U.S. 144 (1938), that government action alleged to discriminate against "discrete and insular minorities" would be subject to "strict scrutiny" by reviewing courts.

Madam Speaker, you might be asking who are these "discrete and insular minorities" about whom the Court was referring? The answer is they were and are persons "excluded from "those political processes ordinarily to be relied upon to protect" them, racial and language minorities, and aliens, all of whom were denied the single most important tool for protecting and advancing one's interests in a democracy: the right to vote. It is useful, Madam Speaker, to recount how we arrived at this day. Madam Speaker, fifty-six years ago, in Selma, Alabama, hundreds of heroic souls risked their lives for freedom and to secure the right to vote for all Americans by their participation in marches for voting rights on "Bloody Sunday," "Turnaround Tuesday," or the final, completed march from Selma to Montgomery.

Those "foot soldiers" of Selma, brave and determined men and women, boys and girls, persons of all races and creeds, loved their country so much that they were willing to risk their lives to make it better, to bring it even closer to its founding ideals. The foot soldiers marched because they believed that all persons have dignity and the right to equal treatment under the law, and in the making of the laws, which is the fundamental essence of the right to vote. On that day, Sunday, March 7, 1965, more than 600 civil rights demonstrators, including our beloved former colleague, the late Congressman John Lewis of Georgia, were brutally attacked by state and local police at the Edmund Pettus Bridge as they marched from Selma to Montgomery in support of the right to vote.

"Bloody Sunday" was a defining moment in American history because it crystallized for the nation the necessity of enacting a strong and effective federal law to protect the right to vote of every American. No one who witnessed the violence and brutality suffered by the foot soldiers for justice who gathered at the Edmund Pettus Bridge will ever forget it; the images are deeply seared in the American memory and experience. On August 6, 1965, in the Rotunda of the Capitol and in the presence of such luminaries as the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rev. Ralph Abernathy of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; Roy Wilkins of the NAACP; Whitney Young of the National Urban League; James Foreman of the Congress of Racial Equality; A. Philip Randolph of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; John Lewis of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee; Senators Robert Kennedy, Hubert Humphrey, and Everett Dirksen; President Johnson addressed the nation before signing the Voting Rights Act: "The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and